

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8935

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4263

EXDIS TREAT AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PBOR, MILI, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE TROOPS

REF: (A) STATE 189490, (B) TEL AVIV 9519

1. CALLED ON BOUTROS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY MORNING JULY 27  
AND ASKED HIM WHETHER WE COULD PASS THE GIST OF INFORMATION  
REGARDING LEBANESE PLANS FOR MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO SIILASVUO  
AND USUN NEW YORK. AFTER CHECKING WITH G-2 ABDO, BOUTROS SAID WE  
COULD PASS ON TO THEM DETAILS OF TROOPS MOVEMENTS BUT NOT RPT NOT  
DETAILS OF WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO REGARDING HADDAD AND  
CHIDIAC.

2. UNDERSTAND TEL AVIV'S RESERVATIONS ABOUT LEBANESE PLANS BUT  
DO NOT BELIEVE WE COULD SECOND GUESS THEM ON HOW  
TO DEAL WITH HADDAD AND CHIDIAC. THEY ARE ESTABLISHING  
THEIR OWN DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THESE GENTLEMEN AND FULLY  
UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE OF WORKING OUT A DEAL. IF HADDAD  
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AND HIS TROOPS TAKE SOME POT SHOTS, THERE IS LIKELY TO  
BE CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE AND IT WILL MEAN THE END OF ANY  
PRETENSE THAT HADDAD IS NOT A MUTINEER. WE RATHER DOUBT  
THAT AS A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER HE WILL BE PREPARED TO FIRE ON  
HIS OWN ARMY. IF NEITHER HADDAD NOR THE ISRAELIS GIVE THE  
ORDERS WE DOUBT LEBANESE TROOPS WILL FIRE. QUESTION REMAINS WHAT  
MILITIAS WILL DO, AND THAT IS WHERE ISRAELIS HAVE MAJOR RESPONSI-

BILITY.

3. LEBANESE ARE, AFTER ALL, DOING EXACTLY WHAT WEIZMAN SUGGESTED IN CONVERSATION REPORTED TEL AVIV 9485. THEY ARE MOVING INTO TIBNIN, NOT WHERE THE CHRISTIANS ARE.

4. PROPOSAL THAT UNITS MOVE TO TIBNIN AND HADDAD AND CHIDIAC BE TAKEN CARE OF LATER IS REASONABLE, BUT LEBANON IS AN UNREASONABLE COUNTRY. HADDAD HAS BECOME A POLITICAL SYMBOL OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT ARMY CANNOT APPEAR TO BE MOVING INTO THE AREA UNDER HIS PATRONAGE. THE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS IT IS, STANDS OR FALLS ON THIS ISSUE.

5. BELIEVE AMBASSADOR LEWIS CAN ASSURE WEIZMAN THAT THE FORCE ORGANIZED TO COME SOUTH HAS BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED. IN COL. SAAD THE LEBANESE HAVE CHOSEN AN INDEPENDENT-MINDED OFFICER WHO IS IN NO WAY BEHOLDEN TO THE SYRIAN AND WHO WILL ASSURE THAT THIS FORCE ACTS AS A LEBANESE FORCE AND NOT A SYRIAN DOMINATED ONE.

6. I, TOO, HOPE THAT LEBANESE GO THROUGH WITH REQUEST FOR ILMAC MEETING, BUT I CAN HOLD HANDS UP HERE FOR JUST SO LONG. LEBANESE ARE BIG BOYS AND THEY ARE NOW LAUNCHED ON THIS ADVENTURE AND WILL HAVE TO PLAY IT THEMSELVES. I AM TRUSTING TO GOD AND GENERAL WEIZMAN TO INSURE THEIR SUCCESS.

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7. FOLLOWING ARE DATT COMMENTS ON UNIT GOING SOUTH AND ITS COMMANDERS. COL. ADIIB SAAD IS A COMPETENT, HIGHLY RESPECTED, A POLITICAL, CHRISTIAN OFFICER WHO HAS STUDIED AT FT. BENNING AND THE FRENCH WAR COLLEGE. HIS DEPUTY, IBRAHIM SHAHIN, IS A FRENCH-TRAINED SHIA OFFICER WHO HAS NO GREAT LOVE FOR THE SYRIANS (HIS OWN BUILDING WAS DESTROYED AND LOOTED BY SYRIAN SOLDIERS IN SHIAH LAST APRIL). SHAHIN HAS BEEN CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE VANGUARDS SINCE 1976 WHEN HE WAS THE COMMANDER OF THE VANGUARD GROUND COMPONENT AT ABLAH, UNDER COL. FAHIM AL HAJJ, WHO WAS OVERALL VANGUARD COMMANDER AT RYAK AB. BOTH OFFICERS ARE WELL KNOWN TO DATT AND NEITHER CAN BE CONSIDERED TO BE PRO-SYRIAN. SAAD HAS BEEN PREPARING PLANS FOR A FORCE TO GO SOUTH SINCE THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT WAS DISCUSSED LAST JULY. SHAHIN HAS NOT ALLOWED ANY OF HIS OFFICERS TO FRATERNIZE WITH SYRIANS AT ABLAH AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HAVING SYRIANS EXCLUDED FROM HIS OFFICERS' MESS. DATT HAS VISITED UNITS WHICH WILL PROVIDE TROOPS TO SOUTH AND IS INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH MOST OF THEIR OFFICERS. WHILE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME MINOR SQUABBLES AMONG THE LEBANESE THEMSELVES, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY INDICATION THAT THEY ARE SYRIAN DOMINATED.

PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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